



ASRS REPORT

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Paul Matson, Director
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www.azasrs.gov

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January 2009

This report provides a briefing of news and notices important to our members, retirees and employer partners, as well as other interested parties. It is produced by the ASRS on a periodic basis and posted to the ASRS website. If you would like to receive an email notice when the next issue is posted, and you are not already on our email list, please contact us at weeklyreport@azasrs.gov and provide your name, email address, telephone number and title and organization, if applicable.

ASRS News

State Legislature begins new session

The 49th Legislature, First Regular Session, opened January 12. The ASRS will again propose and monitor a variety of legislation that relates to retirement issues. In coming weeks, we will begin to provide summaries of various bills that may impact ASRS members, or otherwise have an impact on the retirement system. You'll be able to view summaries and track progress of the legislation through our weekly ASRS BillTracker. Watch for it as part of this report or check our website for it.

Employer News

We're here to serve you!

The ASRS Employer Relations Department is pleased to announce the addition of two new Employer Liaisons. Maurah Harrison and Wendy Tobin have joined the Employer Relations team, moving from other positions within the ASRS.

Adhering to constrained budgetary allowances, these internal moves will enable the ASRS Employer Relations Department to better serve our employer partners.

Ms. Harrison previously worked with the Human Resources Department, and Ms. Tobin moves over from the Director's Office, where she worked as a research analyst.

They join Mark Muraoka as Employer Liaisons in a team managed by Michele Briggs.

To reach us, please feel free to contact us by email at: EmployerRelations@azasrs.gov, or individually.

Michele Briggs, Employer Relations Manager
(602) 240-2022 micheleb@azasrs.gov

Maurah Harrison - (602) 240-2147 maurahh@azasrs.gov

Mark Muraoka - (602) 240-2093 markm@azasrs.gov

Wendy Tobin - (602) 240-2124 wendyt@azasrs.gov

ER 101 Workshops

The ASRS Employer Relations department will host several workshops to assist employers in training new staff members about their responsibilities in regards to retirement. Subject matter will include: Determining Membership, Long Term Disability, How to Report Contributions, Retirees Returning to Work Program, the Health Insurance Premium Benefit Program, Review of the Employer Manual, and learn how to complete the necessary ASRS forms.

Meeting Dates: January 29 & February 25
Phoenix Office Board Room
3300 N Central, 10th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona
(Bring your green ASRS parking ticket in with you for validation)

February 12
Tucson Office Board Room
7660 East Broadway, Suite 10, Tucson, Arizona

Workshop Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Reservations: Space is limited to 40 participants! Email reservations must be received 7 days in advance of workshop date.

To register, please email the ASRS with your name, title, employer name and telephone number to **EmployerRelations@azasrs.gov**.

Member News

Educational meetings offered to inform, assist members

The Member Services Division of the ASRS conducts educational meetings available to all members. Whether you're newly hired and want to learn about the benefits available to you, or you're ready to retire and want assistance filling out your paperwork and making annuity selections, the ASRS has a meeting for you.

Know Your Benefits

This meeting is especially beneficial to new members. You'll learn about the many benefits of belonging to the Arizona State Retirement System, including a history and overview of the ASRS, how your pension is calculated and how to maximize your future benefit, member responsibilities, disability and survivor benefits, options should you leave ASRS employment, and more. Also covered will be the Service Purchase benefit, through which a member may purchase, under certain circumstances, time they worked under other qualified employer plans.

Getting Ready for Retirement

This meeting is vital for members who are planning to retire within a year. You'll learn about your pension benefit and how it's calculated, options for retiree health insurance and other benefits, return to work options and more. Members who register for this meeting will receive a personal benefit estimate and assistance in filing out the proper paperwork.

Know Your Insurance

This meeting has been created to provide information to members about the ASRS health insurance plans and benefits. Members planning to retire soon

are encouraged to attend. You'll learn about health insurance options, meet providers, learn about the ASRS Premium Benefit, and how health insurance costs are determined.

Visit our website and click on the "Calendars" section to see a full listing of meetings taking place in Phoenix, Tucson and throughout the state at various locations. Reservations are required and can be made by calling our Member Advisory Center at (602) 240-2000 in Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in Tucson, or (800) 621-3778 outside Phoenix and Tucson.

ASRS Board & Committee Meetings

ASRS Board of Trustees

Friday, February 20, 8:30 a.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor Board Room.

External Affairs Committee

Friday, February 6, 10 a.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor.

Investment Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 3:30 p.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor.

Operations Committee

Thursday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor.

Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.